

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (**Currently Amended**) A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether or not the pixel values which compose the video are significant ~~or not~~, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream, the video decoding method comprising:

judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video; and

preventing a not displaying of decoded pixel values on a video display unit, when the stream includes the information which is obtained by coding the shape values and does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 2 (**Currently Amended**) The video decoding method of Claim 1, further comprising:

converting the decoded shape values into shape values which are not displayed to output the shape values same, when the stream does not include any information obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 3 (**Currently Amended**) A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which ~~composes~~ compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether or not the pixel values which compose ~~composes~~ the video are significant ~~or not~~, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream, the video decoding method comprising:

outputting predetermined values as the decoded pixel values, when the stream includes the information which is obtained by coding the shape values and does not include any information obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 4 (**Currently Amended**) The video decoding method of Claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a signal which inhibits displaying ~~the~~ a decoded result on the video display unit, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 5 (**Currently Amended**) The video decoding method of Claim 1, wherein

the video is one of a plurality of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.

Claim 6 (**Currently Amended**) A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which ~~composes~~ compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether or not the pixel values which compose the video are significant ~~or not~~, and handling the stream, the video decoding method comprising:

judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which ~~composes~~ compose the video; and

preventing a not decoding of the stream, when the stream includes the information which is obtained by coding the shape values and does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 7 (**Currently Amended**) A video decoding apparatus comprising:

a video decoder for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which ~~composes~~ compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether or not the pixel values which compose the video are significant ~~or not~~, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream; and

a display controller for judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video, and exerting a control not to display the pixel values as an ~~the~~ output of the video decoder, when the stream

includes the information which is obtained by coding the shape values and does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 8 (**Currently Amended**) The video decoding apparatus of Claim 7, wherein
the video is one of a plurality of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.

Claim 9 (**Currently Amended**) A video decoding program located on a storage medium ~~for which contains a video decoding program~~ implementing a video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether or not the pixel values which compose the video are significant ~~or not~~, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream,

the said ~~video~~ decoding program implementing the video decoding method comprising:

judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video; and

preventing a not displaying of decoded pixel values on a video display unit, when the stream includes the information which is obtained by coding the shape values and does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

Claim 10 (**Currently Amended**) The video decoding program ~~storage medium~~ of Claim 9, wherein

the video is one of a plurality of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.